Lovereading Reader reviews of
The Unfinished Symphony of You and Me by Lucy Robinson

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Sarah Tilley

Wonderful read that takes you on an emotional rollercoaster. Couldn’t put it down.

To say I loved this book would be understating – I adored it!

Whilst I did struggle with the thought of someone with such an amazing voice never realising her talent, you only have to look at today’s reality TV to realise that it is so often the case, but this is as far away from reality TV as is possible.

The book makes you feel warm and cuddly, with a pleasant glow inside and it should be at the side of every sunbed this summer.

Wonderfully written, the author really makes you smile with happiness and cry with despair (as I did) throughout the whole book. Even though I realised after a while the truth about Fiona’s whereabouts, I was still in tears when it unraveled itself in the book.

Don’t be put off if the thought of opera makes you want to stick pins in your eyes – the book glides over the few references to different operas so smoothly you will not even realise that you do not know anything about them.

It’s such a feel good read, you just want it to go on and on...

Jacki Moorcroft - @moorcoftj

Put your PJ’s on, draw the curtains and switch off the phone, cuddle up on the
couch and begin because I promise you once you start reading you will not want to put this book down!

This is a love story, Sally is in love with Opera but she keeps this hidden from her family and only sings in her wardrobe however a fateful trip to New York changes Sally's life forever. You do not need to like Opera to love this book. It is funny and heartwarming and sob out loud sad in places but it is a must read, just make sure you are wearing water-proof mascara if reading on the bus like I did or you end up getting stared at when you get off with panda eyes! The characters are so real you feel like you know them personally, and I defy anyone not to fall in love with the delightful Julian. **This is a book I will read again and again for the warm glow it left me with.** I PROMISE you will not be disappointed and I personally look forward to a sequel?

Ann Alderton

**Warm, witty and engaging with a believable heroine you would want as a friend, this is a great holiday read. Down-to-earth chick lit with depth and a good story line - I loved it!**

A compelling romantic comedy with an enormous heart, 'The Unfinished Symphony of You and Me' features as its heroine, the reluctant but talented singer, Sally, whose passion for opera gets her a job as wardrobe mistress with the Royal Opera House, but whose real vocation is singing, if only she could make herself sing outside her wardrobe. Rather than provide us with a predictable journey of self-discovery and transformation, the story delves deeper into the darker sources of Sally's insecurities, from her working class childhood, through to more recent dramatic events, and explores the inner voice of doom and negativity that inhabits the psyche of many a frustrated artist. Like Sally herself, the novel is refreshingly down to earth yet at home against the elevated backdrop of the Royal Opera House and Royal College of Music and the behind the scenes observations have an authentic feel to them. Its pacey written style, wit and colourful supporting cast keeps the reader fully entertained from the opening overture to the final curtain call. **Brilliant!**

Ann

**A brilliant story of love, hope and relationships.**

*The Unfinished Symphony of You and Me* has three stories of love running through it. There is Sally Howlett's love of opera that she discovered when she
was seven; her love for her tormented cousin - a ballerina - and her love for a man she meets in New York.

Although Sally has a superb voice she is terrified of singing in public and confines her singing to her wardrobe. As a wardrobe mistress she can indulge her love of opera but it is not until she attends the Royal School of Music to train as an opera singer that her fears are eventually overcome.

The book is full of humour and pathos and tells a journey of someone gaining confidence and 'finding herself' and the healing of fractured relationships.

**You don't have to be an opera fan to enjoy this novel. Just enjoy the story and the characters. I found it difficult to put down.**

**Yvonne Reynolds**

Struggled with the scenario but it didn't matter as the wonderful characters and the emotions which flow through you make this an absolutely brilliant read.

I am struggling to find words which are enthusiastic enough to make you read this book right now! This is a romantic rollercoaster ride which is in turn hilarious, romantic, heartbreaking and which leaves you with a really positive glow that everything is going to be fine.

The idea that someone would suddenly enrol for an Opera course when they have only ever sung in the wardrobe just didn’t sit right but it didn't matter as it was only a part of the story. The fact that I don't even like Opera didn't even matter - it was all about the characters who were so alive. From the minute a gorgeous man turns up on Sally's doorstep with a bouquet of flowers and a post it note to be met with a flying dinner plate (complete with dinner!) you are into the story and off running and this is one of very few books that I really haven't been able to put down - literally! My bedside light wasn’t switched off until 2am when I finished this book, much to my husband’s disgust!

The past has Fiona and Sally growing up almost as sisters after a family tragedy. Once they are grown up they share a flat and are pretty inseparable, one a dance and one a wardrobe mistress. Their lives change forever on a once in a lifetime trip to New York. Back in London and enrolled on her Opera course, Sally’s story unfolds after the arrival of the mysterious stranger.

**I loved this book and if you like good romantic fiction, you won't find much better anywhere.**
Sarah Harper

A real gem of a book which stands head and shoulders above the rest. Heart-warming, funny, sad and very, very highly recommended.

‘The Unfinished Symphony of You and Me’ is a real gem of a book. After a while, one romantic 'chick-lit' story can seem very like the next. They tend to blur together in your memory but, although in the same genre, this book stands head and shoulders above the rest. There's no one factor which makes it so memorable, it's more a combination of several aspects executed exceptionally well. The story is set very convincingly in the world of opera and the performing arts. It's been thoroughly researched and consequently is accurate and entirely believable. The characters are brilliant, quirky and fully developed. They are so real that it's easy to develop an empathy with them and really care about what happens. Your heart breaks for Sally, her fling with Jan makes you smile and I must admit I fell in love with Julian a little bit myself! The story draws you in. I was desperate to know what had caused the rift between Sally and Fiona. What had wrenched the two, originally as close as sisters, apart? Julian was intriguing too. How could such a perfect, whirlwind romance have gone so wrong? Surely he couldn't be the fake Sally suspected? The slow realisation of the truth was expertly revealed and perfectly timed.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading ‘The Unfinished Symphony of You and Me’. It is heart-warming, funny, sad and very, very highly recommended.

Vikki Gerrish

Hilarious, sad, surprised are some of the emotions I felt when reading this book. I thoroughly enjoyed it and found some parts very light hearted and others extremely sad. I was on an emotional roller coaster reading this but felt the pages turned easily.

It does have a bit of a predictable ending but sometimes that is what you want out of a story, although it did take you on a different path just to keep you tantalised.

Definitely one of those books to pack when you’re going on your hols or on a long train ride, easy to read and pick up, even though I didn’t want to put it down.
Tania P

Absolutely delightful love story in the world of opera.

‘The Unfinished Symphony of You and Me’ is a delightful story about friendship and love in the world of opera. Sally has a passion for singing opera from a young age but is too scared to sing in public so she sings in her wardrobe. The narrative is told by alternating the past and the future. We learn how Sally's interest of opera develops and how she progresses over the years. We watch Sally become more confident in her life whether it is in her relationship with her family, her friends and her fear of singing in public.

The setting of opera is extremely interesting and the author takes us on a lovely journey in a world that I did not know much about. The book is one of my favourites of the moment. It is romantic, it is dramatic. It has a nice twist that is revealed towards the end.

Joy Bosworth

The path of training for opera is fascinating, the Royal School of Music info is gripping. The same depth of character description I found less enthralling centring, as it does, on a self obsessed pudding of a character. She is convinced her accent and bottom size are obstacles to popularity - I think she's just unlikeable. Take out the sex and binge eating and there's little left of her as a character. However, there is a very clever twist towards the end.

Christine Phillips - @Chrisph48

Sally had a secret but her cousin Fiona knew it and she made her promise to do one thing for her. Sally has to fulfill the promise.

Sally Howlett’s life began on a council estate in the Midlands; with her parents, brother Dennis and her cousin Fiona, who had come to live with them after the tragic death of her mother. Sally and Fiona were inseparable and were like sisters. Sally’s parents didn’t like drawing attention to themselves and she grew up with a secret, she could sing, really sing proper grown up opera, but only in her wardrobe.

Years later, they are grown up, both working at the Royal Opera House, Sally a deputy wardrobe mistress and Fiona a ballet dancer. Sally made friends with Barry, a principal dancer with biceps like tiny rocks and the best Welsh accent.
she had ever heard, and Beatriz Maria Stefanini a supervisor in the makeup and wigs department.

Bea secured Sally a job on the Royal Ballet’s summer tour. The Rite of Spring, six weeks touring the east coast of America starting in New York at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Twelve months later a handsome man is at Sally’s door clutching a note, why?

Sally stands in the reception area of the Royal College of Music and meets a Hungarian opera student named Jan Borsos, Violet and Helen and her tutor Brian, Sally has a promise to fulfill.

Samantha Lewis

This was such a funny and heartwarming read. I loved it and will certainly be reading Lucy's other books!! It had me in stitches and close to tears. Highly recommended!!

This was a really good read. I could not put the book down and perfect to curl up to. So down to earth funny, and being a "midlander" myself could really relate to some of the "quirkiness" that Julian finds so hilarious!! The story is told in parts filing in the gaps as it picks up pace but always has you thinking ‘what happened in New York?!!’ It had me in stitches and close to tears. Highly recommended!!

Lesley Hart

Lucy Robinson’s wonderful book wittily, describes Sally Howlett's life. The hooks abound as we discover whether Sally will emerge from her wardrobe bolt hole and realise her full potential!

I loved this book from start to finish, because the main characters were all so likeable and their stories were so well told that I could relate to each character and the joy, or pain, that they experienced with each twist in the story.

It just wasn't possible to predict what would draw Lucy's characters to the end of the tale and this too kept me avidly page turning, on a rollercoaster of - all too believable - plot twists and detail which supported and brought each scene to life. The research was faultless and added credibility to this wonderful story.

I would definitely recommend this book, fabulous!
Sharon Butler

It's rare that I find a book that I just want to continue reading each night, but this was one of those reads...

I have to admit that I was a little dubious at first, (not being a lover of Opera) but that didn’t put me off and I was glad I gave this book a try as you really don’t have to be a fan to enjoy the story.

In a nutshell, a family tragedy sees Sally and her cousin Fiona growing up together and goes on to tell the story of their lives as they get older culminating in a trip to New York where things change forever.

I loved the way the author uses a wardrobe to allow Sally to sing, albeit not in public, but could also see where this little snip-it would go. I did however get frustrated with Sally’s constant refusal to do anything about her amazing vocal talent, as like in any good book, you know she eventually will!

Sally’s chats with her cousin Fiona were very poignant and had me in tears on more than one occasion as I sussed what was going on between them long before the story unravelled.

Highly recommended.

Kathryn Whitfield

Lovely story of friendship and unconditional love.

A beautifully written heartwarming story with loveable characters.

With lots of elements to the story it took me longer to read than I expected but the mystery of what happened in New York kept me intrigued and guessing.

Lucy Robinson knows how to write a story that messes with all your emotions.

I look forward to reading more books by Lucy Robinson.